

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 504

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jeanette Cantrell Rudy  
of Donelson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Jeanette Cantrell Rudy; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rudy was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, she served with acumen and alacrity as a public health nurse, in which position she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rudy continued her commitment to public health by founding both the “Dan Rudy Cancer Center” at Saint Thomas Hospital in honor of her late husband and, with the help of her sisters, the “Felix A. and Edna L. Cantrell Endowment Fund” in honor of their parents, a fund that has aided many nurses in pursuing an education and career in the health field; and

WHEREAS, she received an honorary doctorate of humanities from Cumberland University in 1990, recognizing her for her longtime support of its nursing program, and received the 1992 Seton Medal for her service in patient care at Saint Thomas Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rudy actively served on the boards of Cumberland University, the Saint Thomas Health Auxiliary, the Saint Thomas Foundation, and the Nashville Zoo; she greatly supported the Nashville Police and Fire Department and the National Police Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and she was a longtime member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, an avid collector, she held the finest private collection of State and Federal duck stamps, served as judge of the Federal duck stamp competition in Washington, D.C., in

1992, and inspired the Smithsonian to establish the Jeanette Cantrell Rudy Duck Stamp Gallery at the National Postal Museum in 1996; and

WHEREAS, she was also a wildlife enthusiast, having been named to the Women's *Sports Afield* All-American Trap Team four times and holding the titles of Ladies State Trapshooting Champion for nine years and Commissioner of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, in which position she raised funds for the preservation and conservation of Tennessee fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rudy authored the book, *A Bend in the Cumberland*, wherein she illuminated the history of the Pennington Bend area, for many years the home of Rudy's Farm Sausage Company, which was operated by her husband and his brother; and

WHEREAS, Jeanette Rudy was also a deeply devoted daughter, sister, and wife, who was preceded in death by her parents, Felix and Edna Cantrell; her husband, Daniel Cleese Rudy; and her brother, Alton Cantrell; and

WHEREAS, she will be greatly missed by her sisters, Geneva Barry, Margaret Smitherman, Louise C. Merryman, and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Jeanette Rudy leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jeanette Rudy, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Jeanette Rudy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.